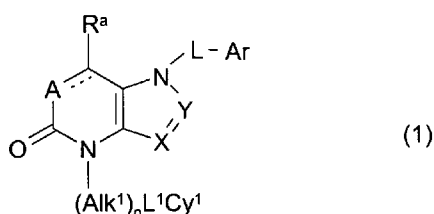


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (1):



wherein:

the dashed line joining A and C(R^a) is present and represents a bond and A is a ~~N=atom or a -C(R^b)= group, or the dashed line is absent and A is a -C(R^b)(R^e)- or -N(R^d)- group;~~

R^a and R^b are each hydrogen ~~R^a, R^b and R^e are each independently a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, -CN, -CO₂R¹ or CONR¹R² group;~~

~~R¹ and R² are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group;~~

R¹ is methyl, ethyl or trifluoromethyl;

R² is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group;

~~R^d is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;~~

~~X and Y are each a nitrogen atom or a -C(R^e)= or -C(Alk²R^e)= group;~~

X is a -CH= group;

Y is a -C(R^e)= group;

R^e is hydrogen, -CN, -COR¹, -CO₂R¹, -CONR^{1a}R^{2a}, -S(O)₂NR^{1a}R^{2a}, -

CONR^{1a}OR^{2a} or -C(O)N(R^{3a})NR^{1a}R^{2a},

Alk^2 is an optionally substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene chain;
 R^e is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a CN , OR^1 , CO_2R^1 , $\text{C}(\text{X}^a)\text{R}^1$, Cy^2 ,
 $\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$, $\text{C}(\text{X}^a)\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^{3a})\text{C}(\text{X}^a)\text{R}^1$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^{3a})\text{C}(\text{X}^a)\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$,
 $\text{N}(\text{R}^{3a})\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^1$, $\text{N}(\text{S}(\text{O})_2)\text{R}^1$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^{3a})\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^{3a})\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^1$,
 $\text{N}(\text{R}^{3a})\text{C}(\text{NR}^1)\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$, $\text{C}(\text{R}^1)\text{NOR}^2$, $\text{C}(\text{NR}^1)\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$, $\text{C}(\text{X}^a)\text{NR}^{1a}\text{OR}^{2a}$ or
 $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^{3a})\text{NR}^{1a}\text{R}^{2a}$;
 X^a is an oxygen or sulphur atom;
 Cy^2 is an optionally substituted, saturated or unsaturated non-aromatic carbocyclic
ring optionally containing one or more O , S , NH or $\text{C}(\text{X}^a)$ atoms or groups;
 R^{1a} and R^{2a} are, independently, a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl
or Cy^2 or methyl group, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached,
form an optionally substituted, saturated or non-saturated cyclicamino ring optionally
containing one or more O or S atoms or NH or $\text{C}(\text{X}^a)$ groups represent $\text{-(CH}_2)_4\text{-}$ or
 $\text{-CH(CH}_2\text{OH)(CH}_2)_3\text{-}$;
 R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group C_{1-6} alkyl group;
 L is a $\text{C}(\text{O})$, $\text{C}(\text{S})$, $\text{C}(\text{R}^{1f})(\text{R}^{1g})$ or CH_2CH_2 group $\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $\text{-CH(CH}_3\text{)-}$, $\text{-C}(\text{O})\text{-}$
or $\text{-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-}$ group;
 R^{1f} and R^{1g} are, independently, a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched
 C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by one, two or three fluorine atoms, or R^{1f} and R^{1g} ,
together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl group;
 n is zero or the integer 1;
 Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;
 L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;
 Cy^1 is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic,
heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, or is
additionally a hydrogen atom when n is the integer 1 and/or L^1 is a linker atom or group
phenyl, methyl, methylphenyl, methoxyphenyl, thienyl or indolyl; and
 Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group represents
phenyl, pyridinyl, thienyl or benzothienyl, any of which groups may be optionally
substituted by one or two substituents selected from halogen, cyano, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6}

alkoxy and nitro;

~~provided that the compound of formula (1) is other than 3,7-dibenzyl 3,7-~~

~~dihydro-2H-purinone;~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, hydrate~~ or N-oxide thereof.

2 – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Ar is a phenyl, fluorophenyl, difluorophenyl, chlorophenyl, dichlorophenyl, (chloro)(fluoro)phenyl, cyanophenyl, methylphenyl, (fluoro)(methyl)phenyl, methoxyphenyl, nitrophenyl, pyridinyl, chlorothieryl or benzothieryl group.

8. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 which is

1-Benzyl-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(2,6-Dichlorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(3-Methoxybenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-Benzoyl-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

4-[(5-Oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-1-yl)methyl]benzonitrile;

3-[5-Oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-1-yl)methyl]benzonitrile;

1-(2-Methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(3-Methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(4-Methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(3,4-Dichlorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(2,5-Dichlorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(3,4-Difluorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(2,4-Difluorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-one;

1-(3-Chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;
 4-Phenyl-1-(pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;
 4-Phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;
 4-Phenyl-1-(1-phenylethyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;
 1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;
 Ethyl 1-benzyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;
 Ethyl 1-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;
 Ethyl 1-(3-methylbenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;
 Ethyl 1-(3-chlorobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;
 1-(3-Chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;
N-Methoxy-*N*-methyl-1-(3-methylbenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;
 1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;
 1-(3-Chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;
 1-(3-Methylbenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;
 1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;
 4-Phenyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;
 1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carbonitrile;
 1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-*N*-methyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-ylcarbonyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carbohydrazide;

Ethyl 1-(3-chlorobenzyl)-4-(1*H*-indol-5-yl)-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;

Ethyl 1-(3-chlorobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-(3-thienyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-(1*H*-indol-5-yl)-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

Ethyl 1-(4-fluoro-3-methylbenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-(3-thienyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;

Ethyl 1-(3-chlorobenzyl)-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;.

1-(2-Cyanobenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

1-(4-Fluoro-3-methylbenzyl)-5-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

1-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carbohydrazide;

Ethyl 1-(3-chlorobenzyl)-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate;

1-(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;

1-[(5-Chloro-2-thienyl)methyl]-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one;

1-Benzyl-4-phenyl-3-(trifluoroacetyl)-1,4-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one; or

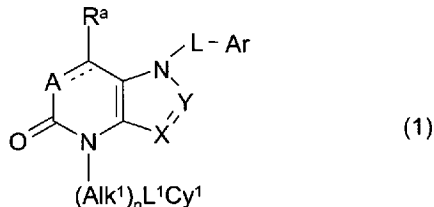
2-{[(2S)-2-(Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidin-1-yl] carbonyl} -1-(3-methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one.

9. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Canceled

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting p38 kinase activity in a patient suffering from a disease or disorder in which p38 kinase activity plays a role, comprising administering to the patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula (1):



wherein:

the dashed line joining A and C(R^a) is present and represents a bond and A is a ~~N=atom or a -C(R^b)= group, or the dashed line is absent and A is a -C(R^b)(R^e)- or -N(R^d)-group;~~

R^a and R^b are each hydrogen ~~R^a, R^b and R^e are each independently a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, CN, CO₂R⁺ or CONR⁺R² group;~~

~~R¹ and R² are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group;~~

R¹ is methyl, ethyl or trifluoromethyl;

R² is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group;

R^d is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;
 X and Y are each a nitrogen atom or a $-C(R^e)=$ or $-C(Alk^2R^e)=$ group;
X is a $-CH=$ group;
Y is a $-C(R^e)=$ group;
 R^e is hydrogen, $-CN$, $-COR^1$, $-CO_2R^1$, $-CONR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-CONR^{1a}OR^{2a}$ or $-C(O)N(R^{3a})NR^{1a}R^{2a}$.
~~Alk² is an optionally substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene chain;~~
 ~~R^e is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a $-CN$, $-OR^1$, $-CO_2R^1$, $-C(X^a)R^1$, $-Cy^2$, $-NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(X^a)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(X^a)R^1$, $-N(R^{3a})C(X^a)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})S(O)_2R^1$, $-N(S(O)_2)R^1$, $-N(R^{3a})S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(O)OR^1$, $-N(R^{3a})C(NR^1)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(R^1)NOR^2$, $-C(NR^1)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(X^a)NR^{1a}OR^{2a}$ or $-C(O)N(R^{3a})NR^{1a}R^{2a}$;~~
 ~~X^a is an oxygen or sulphur atom;~~
 ~~Cy^2 is an optionally substituted, saturated or unsaturated non-aromatic carbocyclic ring optionally containing one or more $-O$, $-S$, $-NH$ or $-C(X^a)$ atoms or groups;~~
 ~~R^{1a} and R^{2a} are, independently, a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or $-Cy^2$ or methyl group, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form an optionally substituted, saturated or non-saturated cyclicamino ring optionally containing one or more $-O$ or $-S$ atoms or $-NH$ or $-C(X^a)$ groups represent $-(CH_2)_4$ or $-CH(CH_2OH)(CH_2)_3$;~~
 ~~R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group C_{1-6} alkyl group;~~
~~L is a $-C(O)$, $-C(S)$, $-C(R^{1f})(R^{1g})$ or $-CH_2CH_2$ group $-CH_2$ -, $-CH(CH_3)$ -, $-C(O)$ - or $-CH_2CH_2$ - group;~~
 ~~R^{1f} and R^{1g} are, independently, a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by one, two or three fluorine atoms, or R^{1f} and R^{1g} , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl group;~~
~~n is zero or the integer 1;~~
~~Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;~~
 ~~L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;~~
 ~~Cy^1 is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic,~~

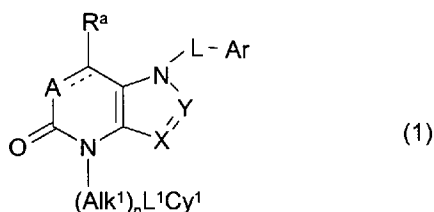
~~heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, or is additionally a hydrogen atom when n is the integer 1 and/or L⁺ is a linker atom or group phenyl, methyl, methylphenyl, methoxyphenyl, thienyl or indolyl; and~~

~~Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group represents phenyl, pyridinyl, thienyl or benzothienyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from halogen, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy and nitro;~~

~~provided that the compound of formula (1) is other than 3,7-dibenzyl 3,7-dihydro-2H-purinone;~~

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug, salt, solvate, hydrate, or N-oxide thereof.~~

13. (Currently amended) A method for treating autoimmune diseases, inflammatory diseases, destructive-bone disorders, proliferative disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, viral diseases, allergies, infectious diseases, heart attacks, angiogenic disorders, reperfusion/ischemia in stroke, vascular hyperplasia, organ hypoxia, cardiac hypertrophy, thrombin-induced platelet aggregation, and conditions associated with prostaglandin endoperoxidase synthetase-2 (COX-2) comprising administering to a patient suffering from such a disease or disorder a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula (1):



wherein:

~~the dashed line joining A and C(R^a) is present and represents a bond and A is a -N=atom or a -C(R^b)= group, or the dashed line is absent and A is a -C(R^b)(R^e)- or -N(R^d)-group;~~

~~R^a and R^b are each hydrogen R^a, R^b and R^e are each independently a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁺ or -CONR⁺R²-group;~~

R^1 and R^2 are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group;

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or trifluoromethyl;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group;

R^d is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

X and Y are each a nitrogen atom or a $-C(R^e)=$ or $-C(Alk^2R^e)=$ group;

X is a $-CH=$ group;

Y is a $-C(R^e)=$ group;

R^e is hydrogen, $-CN$, $-COR^1$, $-CO_2R^1$, $-CONR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-CONR^{1a}OR^{2a}$ or $-C(O)N(R^{3a})NR^{1a}R^{2a}$;

Alk^2 is an optionally substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene chain;

R^e is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a $-CN$, $-OR^1$, $-CO_2R^1$, $-C(X^a)R^1$, $-Cy^2$, $-NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(X^a)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(X^a)R^1$, $-N(R^{3a})C(X^a)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})S(O)_2R^1$, $-N(S(O)_2)R^1$, $-N(R^{3a})S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(O)OR^1$, $-N(R^{3a})C(NR^1)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(R^1)NOR^2$, $-C(NR^1)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(X^a)NR^{1a}OR^{2a}$ or $-C(O)N(R^{3a})NR^{1a}R^{2a}$;

X^a is an oxygen or sulphur atom;

Cy^2 is an optionally substituted, saturated or unsaturated non-aromatic carbocyclic ring optionally containing one or more O , S , NH or $-C(X^a)$ atoms or groups;

R^{1a} and R^{2a} are, independently, a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or Cy^2 or methyl group, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form an optionally substituted, saturated or non-saturated cyclicamino ring optionally containing one or more O or S atoms or NH or $-C(X^a)$ groups represent $-(CH_2)_4-$ or $-CH(CH_2OH)(CH_2)_3-$;

R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group C_{1-6} alkyl group;

L is a $-C(O)$, $-C(S)$, $-C(R^{1f})(R^{1g})$ or $-CH_2CH_2$ group $-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-C(O)-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$ group;

R^{1f} and R^{1g} are, independently, a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by one, two or three fluorine atoms, or R^{1f} and R^{1g} , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl group;

n is zero ~~or the integer 1~~;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L¹ is a covalent bond ~~or a linker atom or group~~;

Cy¹ is ~~an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, or is additionally a hydrogen atom when n is the integer 1 and/or L¹ is a linker atom or group~~ phenyl, methyl, methylphenyl, methoxyphenyl, thienyl or indolyl; and

Ar ~~is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group~~ represents phenyl, pyridinyl, thienyl or benzothienyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from halogen, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy and nitro;

~~provided that the compound of formula (1) is other than 3,7-dibenzyl 3,7-dihydro-2H-purinone;~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug, salt, ~~solvate, hydrate,~~ or N-oxide thereof.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, glomerulonephritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, chronic thyroiditis, Grave's disease, hemolytic anemia, autoimmune gastritis, autoimmune neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, chronic active hepatitis, myasthenia gravis, atopic dermatitis, graft vs host disease or psoriasis.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the inflammatory disease is asthma, allergies, respiratory distress syndrome, or acute or chronic pancreatitis.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the destructive bone disorder is osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, or multiple myeloma-related bone disorder.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the proliferative

disorder is acute or chronic myelogenous leukemia, Kaposi's sarcoma, metastatic melanoma, or multiple myeloma.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, cerebral ischemias, or neurodegenerative disease caused by traumatic injury.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the viral disease is acute hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C infection; HIV infection; or CMV retinitis.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the infections disease is septic shock, sepsis, or Shigellosis.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the condition associated with prostaglandin endoperoxidase synthetase-2 (COX-2) is edema, analgesia, fever, neuromuscular pain, headache, dental pain, arthritis pain, or pain caused by cancer.